

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A vacuum assisted wound closure device, comprising:

- a screen means for placement within a wound bed;
 - a sealing means adhered over said screen means and wound bed;
 - a vacuum source fluidically communicating with said screen means; and
 - a sensing device interposed between said screen means and said vacuum source;
- wherein the sensing device senses unfiltered wound fluid from the wound bed.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 wherein said sensing device is comprised of a gas chromatograph.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 2 wherein said gas chromatograph is comprised of a photo diode in optical proximity to fluids being drawn from the wound site towards said vacuum source.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 wherein said sensing device is comprised of a ~~sensor~~ sensor array.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 further comprising a collection canister interposed between said screen means and said sensing device.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A vacuum assisted wound closure device, comprising:

- a screen means for placement within a wound bed;
 - a sealing means adhered over said screen means and wound bed;
 - a vacuum source fluidically communicating with said screen means;
 - a collection canister interposed between said screen means and said vacuum source; and
 - a sensing device for detecting infection;
- wherein the sensing device senses unfiltered wound fluid from the wound bed.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 wherein said sensing device is embedded within said screen means.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 wherein said sensing device is disposed on said sealing means, such that said sensing device is in contact with said screen means.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 wherein said sensing device is disposed within said canister

App. No. 10/090,358

Amdt. Dated 4 January 2005.

Reply to Office Action of July 6, 2004

Claim 10 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 6 further comprising a flexible conduit for communicating between said screen means and said vacuum source.